

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The shutter according to claim 41 4, wherein the filament comprises a metallic wire.
3. (Withdrawn) The shutter according to claim 1, wherein the tensioning device comprises a winch around which the filament is wound.
4. (Withdrawn) The shutter according to claim 3, wherein the winch comprises a locking element for selectively locking the winch against unwinding.
5. (Currently Amended) The shutter according to claim 41 4, wherein the shutter further comprises first and second guides which respectively receive and guide opposing lateral edges of the curtain, the guides being located on opposing lateral edges of the aperture.
6. (Withdrawn) The shutter according to claim 5, wherein a first end of the filament is retained on the first guide and the tensioning device is provided on the second guide, a second end of the filament being received by the tensioning device.
- 7-9. (Cancelled)
10. (Currently Amended) The shutter according to claim 41 4, wherein the shutter further comprises a second filament spanning the aperture.
11. (Original) The shutter according to claim 10, further comprising a second tensioning device for applying tension to the second filament.

12. (Original) The shutter according to claim 10, wherein the second filament lies in a plane substantially parallel and adjacent to the second face of the shutter curtain.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Withdrawn) The shutter according to claim 1, wherein a storage device is provided for storing at least part of the filament when not under tension.

15. (Withdrawn) The shutter according to claim 14, wherein the storage device comprises an elastic element biasing the filament in a direction into the storage device.

16. (Currently Amended) A storm retainer for retaining a shutter curtain against flexure, the shutter curtain being located across an aperture of a building and having a first face and a second face, the storm retainer comprising:

a filament extending across the first face;

an anchor attached to a first portion of the filament and securing the first portion with respect to the aperture;

a tensioning device including a first threaded body movably coupled to a second threaded body;

~~, the tensioning device being secured with respect to the aperture and being attached to a second portion of the filament, actuation of the tensioning device causing tensioning of the filament from the first portion to the second portion.~~

wherein the first threaded body is coupled to a second portion of the filament, the second threaded body attaches to the building adjacent to the aperture and secures the second

threaded body with respect to the aperture, and the tensioning device applies tension to the filament as the first threaded body is rotated in a first direction in relation to the second threaded body.

17. (Original) The storm retainer according to claim 16, wherein the anchor attaches to the building adjacent to the aperture.

18. (Original) The storm retainer according to claim 16, wherein the shutter curtain is provided with a frame and the anchor attaches to the frame.

19-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Withdrawn) The shutter according to claim 1 wherein said tensioning device comprises the shutter curtain whereby the shutter curtain provides tension to the filament as the shutter curtain is flexed or bowed by the wind.

37. (Withdrawn) The shutter according to claim 24 wherein said tensioning device comprises the shutter curtain whereby the shutter curtain provides tension to the flexible strengthening device as the shutter curtain is flexed or bowed by the wind.

38. Cancelled.

39. (Previously Added) The storm retainer of claim 16, further comprising:
a second filament extending across the second face;
a second anchor attached to a first portion of the second filament and securing the first portion of the second filament with respect to the aperture; and

a second tensioning device, the second tensioning device being secured with respect to the aperture and being attached to a second portion of the second filament, actuation of the second tensioning device causing tensioning of the second filament from the first portion to the second portion of the second filament.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (New) A shutter for a building aperture comprising:

a shutter curtain having a first and a second face, the shutter curtain being locatable in the aperture;

a filament spanning the aperture and lying in a plane substantially parallel and adjacent to the first face of the shutter curtain to provide support to the curtain against flexure thereof in a direction towards the filament; and

a tensioning device including a first threaded body movably coupled to a second threaded body;

wherein the first threaded body is coupled to the filament, the second threaded body is configured for coupling to a building, and the tensioning device applies tension to the filament as the first threaded body is rotated in a first direction in relation to the second threaded body.